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DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/TRA/AN (TCOLEMAN), EUR/ERA (PWALKER),  
AND EUR/AGS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: AUSTRIA MOVING FORWARD ON U.S.-EU AIR TRANSPORT  
AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 43305

¶1. (SBU) On April 12, Acting Econ/Pol Counselor delivered reftel point to Alois Kraut, Head of the Ministry of European and Integration Affairs' Transport and Telecommunications Unit. Kraut noted that the GoA's Council of Ministers had vested Austria's Permanent Representative to the EU with the authority to sign the Open Skies Plus Agreement at the upcoming COREPER. Kraut said that, following the signing at the April 30 U.S.-EU Summit, the GoA's Council of Ministers will send the agreement to Parliament. Kraut estimated that Parliament would approve the agreement in early summer or in early autumn. Kraut added that he does not anticipate any opposition, as the agreement enjoys broad support from Austrian political parties and Austrian air carriers.

KILNER